

CLAIMS

Sub A1

1. A thermoplastic composition that is melt-processable consisting essentially of (a) aliphatic, mono-functional organic acid(s) having fewer than 36 carbon atoms; and (b) ethylene, C<sub>3</sub> to C<sub>8</sub>  $\alpha,\beta$  ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer(s) and ionomer(s) thereof, wherein greater than 90% of all the acid of (a) and (b) is neutralized.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein about 100% of the acid in (a) and (b) is neutralized.

10 3. The composition of claim 1 wherein an amount of cation source in excess of the amount required to neutralize 100% of the acid in (a) and (b) is used to neutralize the acid in (a) and (b).

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4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the organic acid is one or more C<sub>6</sub> to C<sub>26</sub> organic acids.

15 5. The composition of claim 4 wherein the organic acid is one or more C<sub>6</sub> to C<sub>18</sub> organic acids.

6. The composition of claim 5 wherein the organic acid is one or more of C<sub>6</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> organic acids,

Sub A2

20 7. A process to make a highly-neutralized, melt-processable ionomer comprising the steps of

(a) Melt-blending an ethylene  $\alpha,\beta$  ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer or a melt-processable ionomer thereof with an organic acid or a salt of organic acid, and

25 (b) concurrently or subsequently adding sufficient cation source to neutralize more than 90% of all the acid moieties of the acid copolymer or ionomer thereof and the organic acid or salt thereof.

8. The process of claim 7 wherein about 100% of the acid moieties are neutralized.

30 9. The process of claim 7 wherein the amount of cation source is in excess of the amount that is required to neutralize all the acid moieties in the acid copolymer or ionomer thereof and the organic acid or salt thereof.